

peace-keepers in powderkegs like Bosnia, the allies will suffer us to lead them, yes, but only where they want to go, as Lyndon Johnson discovered over Vietnam. Leadership means pointless, unending subsidy.

Moreover, it is insulting to the Europeans to carry on as if they are cock-a-hoop without us. Just as a welfare check can inhibit your will to work, so being led by others can inhibit your will and weaken your capacity to lead. The Europeans must find their own way.

Is it "isolationist" to leave them to it? No. It is realism. We should trade places with the French: They are the major land power in Europe. Let them lead; it will do wonders for their hauteur. Our political role should be as a French-like kibitzer around the edges of NATO, ready to build up in Europe, if necessary, to answer any buildup from a nationalist Russia. Our proper geostrategic role is offshore, as a maritime power. Walter Lippmann called this the "blue water strategy." Unlike the continuance of forward deployment against a phantom enemy, it has the merit of being sane.

Besides, as conservatives will soon be warning in Congress, we face security threats that the cost of forward deployment in Europe simply won't permit us to address. It is, for example, just a matter of time before some rogue regime or stateless band of terrorists learn how to make and transport nuclear weapons. We have no defense against such threats now. The Republicans want to revive the Strategic Defense Initiative, but even if that celestial Maginot Line could be constructed for less than hundreds of billions of dollars, it would only work against ballistic missile attack. A border patrol scaled to national security dimensions would make far more sense as protection against bomb-carrying terrorists. Estimates are that \$20 billion annually, about half what NATO will cost in the year 2000, would pay for a real military-style border between the United States and Mexico. That would also keep out both illegal immigrants and drug traffickers, which would benefit both our lowest wage earners and inner-city kids. What a novelty that would be: American defense spending defending Americans.

In short, getting Europe out of our pockets is a requirement of both economic and national security. The burden should be on those who want to maintain the somnolent commitment to NATO.

LESLIE MERLIN CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE BRICK CHURCH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a wonderful woman who recently marked her 15th year with the Brick Presbyterian Church in Manhattan.

Since 1979, Associate Pastor Leslie Merlin has devoted her considerable talents and deep compassion to the Brick Church as Associate Pastor. As a parishioner at the Brick Church, I have enjoyed her sermons and been a beneficiary of her wisdom many times.

When she arrived in 1979, Pastor Merlin brought with her to the Brick Church a long-standing commitment to helping others, and a devotion to making the world around her a better place. After graduating from Wagner College in Staten Island, she served as a vol-

unteer teacher in Papua New Guinea. Shortly thereafter, she blended her interest in teaching with a calling to the church by earning a master of divinity at Princeton Seminary. After a brief stay with the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, she came to the Brick Church, which has enjoyed her presence ever since.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Leslie Merlin's 15th anniversary with the Brick Church. She has been both a friend and an inspiration to the parishioners of the Brick Church, and I wish her many more years of happiness and joy.

REPEAL NAFTA!

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the NAFTA Withdrawal Act, legislation to pull the United States out of the North American Free-Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

When I cast my vote against NAFTA, I did so knowing full well the devastating impact such an agreement would have on U.S. workers. To date, because of NAFTA, over 8,000 American workers have lost their jobs.

Since NAFTA took effect, United States imports from Mexico have been increasing at a rate faster than United States exports to Mexico. This distinction is important because in order to create jobs, United States exports must be expanding faster than imports. This imbalance between imports and exports has cut the United States trade surplus with Mexico down to little more than \$1 billion.

Likewise, from January through July of last year, United States automakers exported about 22,000 vehicles to Mexico. The United States, however, imported 221,000 from Mexico—an imbalance of 199,000 vehicles in Mexico's favor. Moreover, in the short-time since NAFTA passed, Honda, BMW, Volkswagen, Toyota, and Samsung have all announced plans to build new or expanded production facilities in Mexico.

In passing NAFTA, too many of my colleagues failed to see NAFTA for what it really was—a continuation of policies that have undermined the hard won benefits of our Nation's labor movement. Passage of the NAFTA Withdrawal Act is essential if we are to restore justice to the working people of America.

THE ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO VISITORS CENTER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I am today re-introducing legislation to designate the visitors center at the Channel Islands National Park, CA, as the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitors Center.

In 1980, Bob Lagomarsino successfully guided legislation through Congress which established the Channel Islands National Park in Ventura County, CA. He then worked tirelessly during the next dozen years to obtain land ac-

quisition funds to buy the islands from their previous owners. Because of his efforts, virtually all of the islands are now protected, ensuring that they will remain free of development and in their pristine state which will be open to the public for generations to come.

Unquestionably, without Bob Lagomarsino's perseverance, it's safe to say that the islands would not be protected today. It's only fitting that the visitors center at Ventura Harbor serve as a living monument for the outstanding service Bob Lagomarsino provided to Ventura County residents for almost 35 years in public office.

Identical legislation was passed by the House in the 103d Congress; regrettably it was not considered in the Senate prior to adjournment.

I urge my colleagues to support and to co-sponsor this legislation.

INTERSTATE BANKING REVISITED

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 11, 1995

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last year, Congress enacted the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994. This was certainly one of the Banking Committee's most important accomplishments. One provision in the interstate law, the applicable law provision, generated considerable discussion by the conference committee.

The applicable law provision is relevant when a national bank branches into a second State. With respect to four kinds of State laws specified in the statute, the branch is subject to State law as if it were a bank chartered by the host State, unless the State law is preempted. However, we were clear in the language of the statute and the legislative history that the applicable law provision in the interstate law applies only when a bank actually has branches in a second State. If a bank does not branch into a second State, the applicable law provision does not come into play.

Another provision of the interstate law, the savings clause of section 111, is also important in this regard. The savings clause provides that nothing in the interstate law affects section 85 of the National Bank Act and section 27 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act. These provisions, as we explained in the legislative history, authorize banks to make loans, including interstate loans, and the savings clause therefore preserved the preexisting lending authority of banks to collect all lending charges, without regard to the changes in branching authority made by the interstate law.

I believe it is important to reemphasize these points as courts, regulators, and others interpret the applicable law provision and other parts of the new interstate banking law. It has come to my attention that a State court in Pennsylvania recently interpreted the applicable law provision in a decision concerning whether a national bank located in Ohio was authorized by section 85 of the National Bank Act to collect certain credit card charges from Pennsylvania residents. I would certainly hope that all courts recognize that the applicable law provision has no bearing on or relevance